

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 were pending in this application. Claims 1-5 have been canceled, claims 6-8 have been amended and claims 11-13 have been newly added. Accordingly, claims 6-13 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment, of which claims 9 and 10 are independent claims. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 9 and 10 were allowed. The abstract of the disclosure, however, was objected to for informality, claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,455,640 to Gertsikov, claims 1-3, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,162,828 to Furness et al. (“Furness”), and claims 1-3 and 6 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over PCT WO94/09398 (“WO’398”). Furthermore, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gertsikov or Furness et al. or WO’398, and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO’398. To the extent these grounds of rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended the abstract of the disclosure to be in the form of a single paragraph, which meets the requirement of MPEP § 608.01(b). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the abstract is overcome.

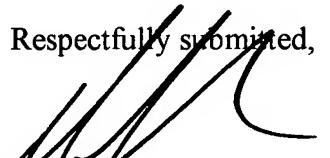
Applicant have also canceled claims 1-5 and rewritten claims 6-8 to be dependent from allowable independent claim 9. Furthermore, newly added claims 11-13 depend from allowable independent claims 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-13 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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